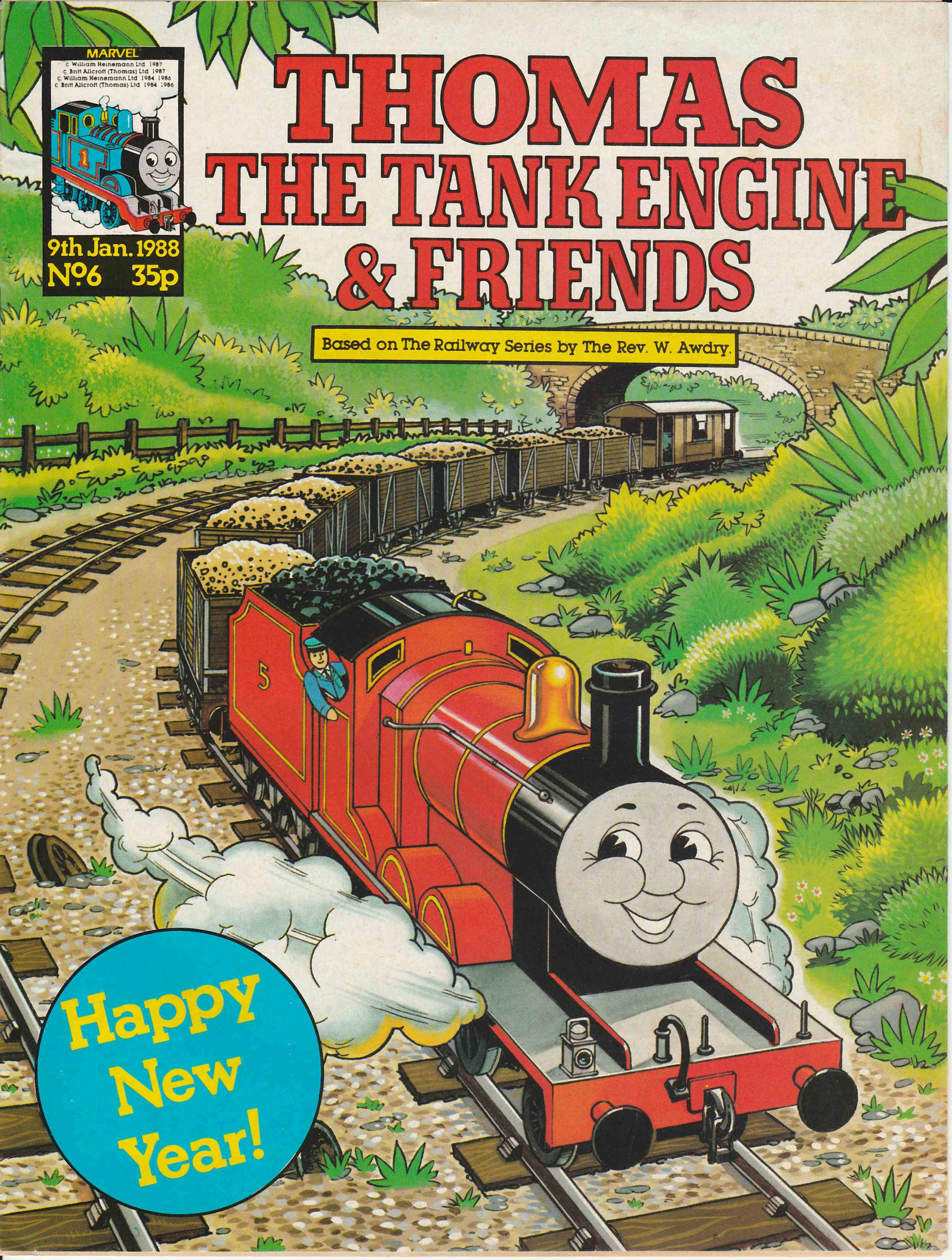
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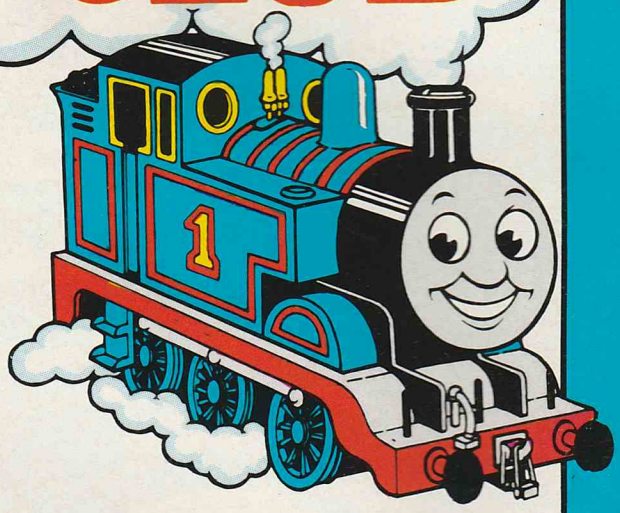
9th Jan. 1988
No.6 35p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
Happy New Year!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Peep! Peep! Doesn't James look splendid on our cover? There are two stories all about him in this issue. Read about how he gets on with some troublesome trucks – and how *proud* he is when he has to pull Gordon's express!

FACT FILE:

Gordon the Big Express Engine

Gordon is the senior member of the engine family. He is the fastest and most powerful engine – and he knows it! He is very proud and he often boasts. He's goodhearted, though, and always ready to use his strength to help smaller engines out of trouble.

THE THOMAS CLUB!

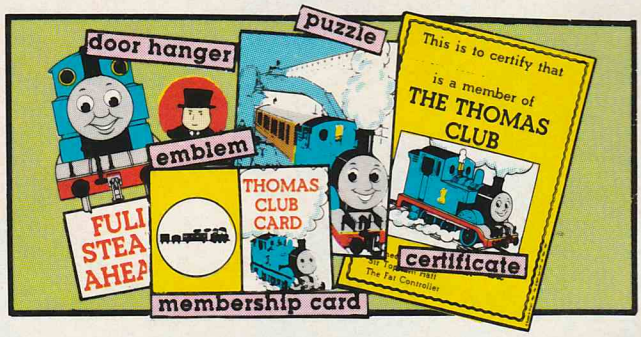
Would you like to join our Club? It's so easy! All you have to do is collect **3 tokens** like the one at the bottom of this page – there's one in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Send them, together with a large, stamped addressed envelope (at least 21cm x 16cm) to: **The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.**

Please allow 28 days delivery of your Club Pack.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Would you like to have **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** delivered straight to your home every fortnight? And become a member of the **Thomas Club** straightaway?

Then turn to page 18!



MAKE A MURAL!

Are you collecting the centre pages of your **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** magazines? Add to your colourful mural in this issue as we puff past the windmill!

A Happy New Year to you all!

THOMAS TOKEN

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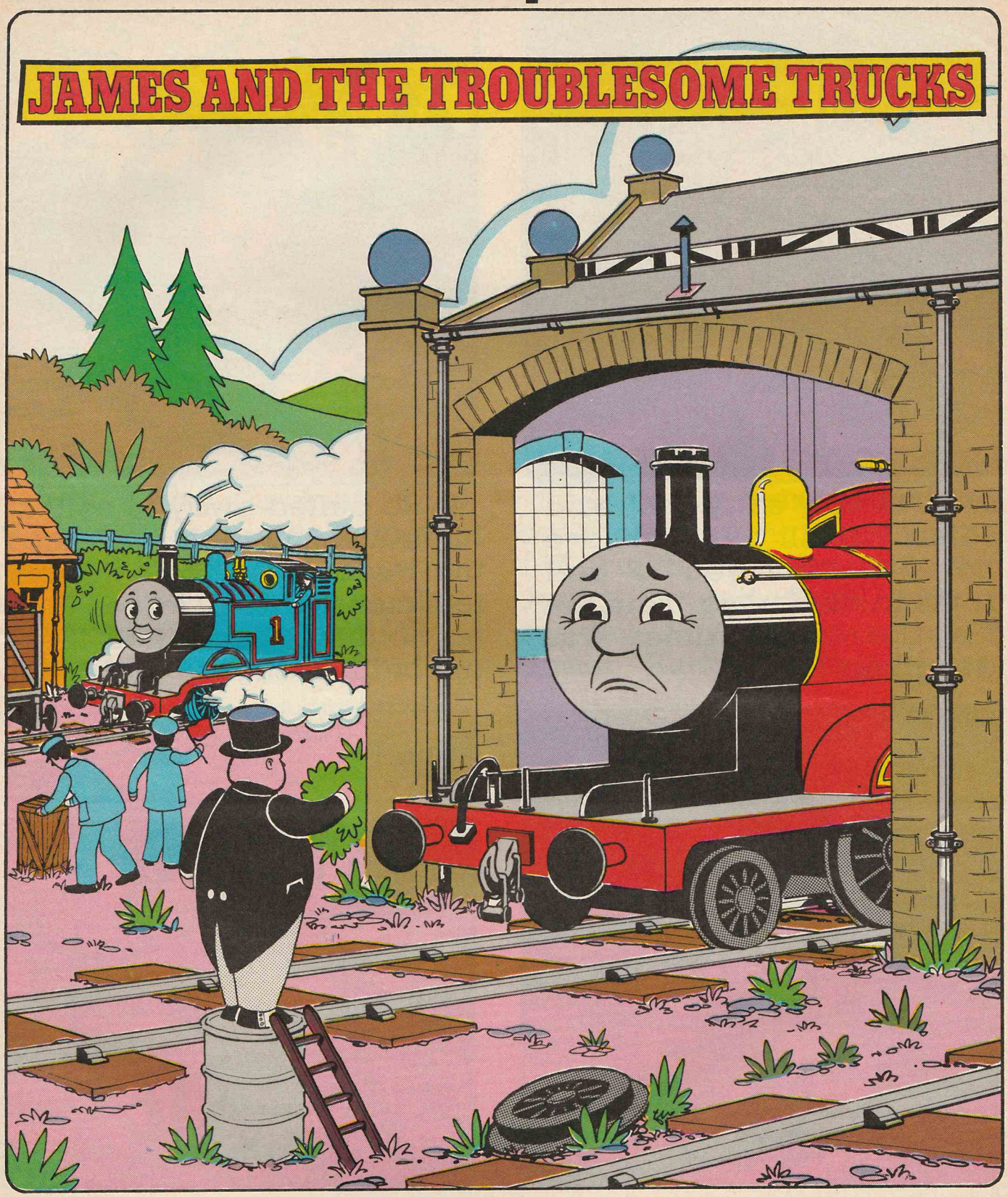
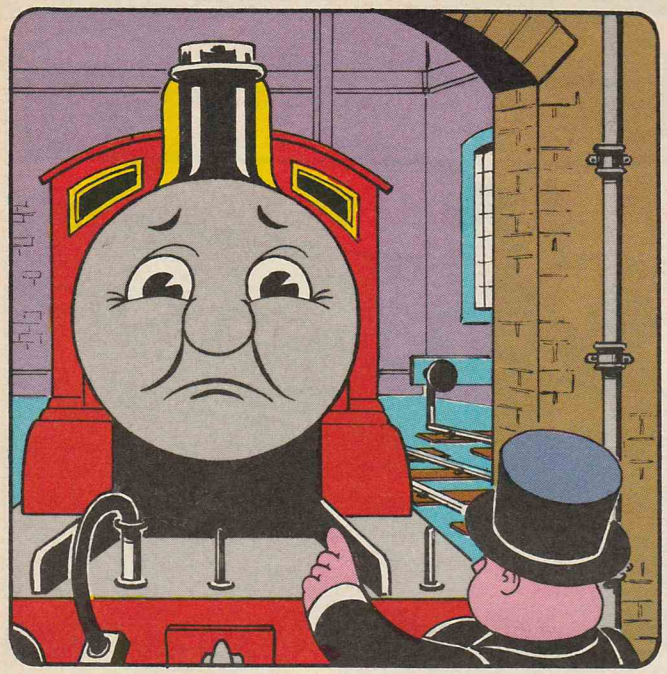
A listen and look story!

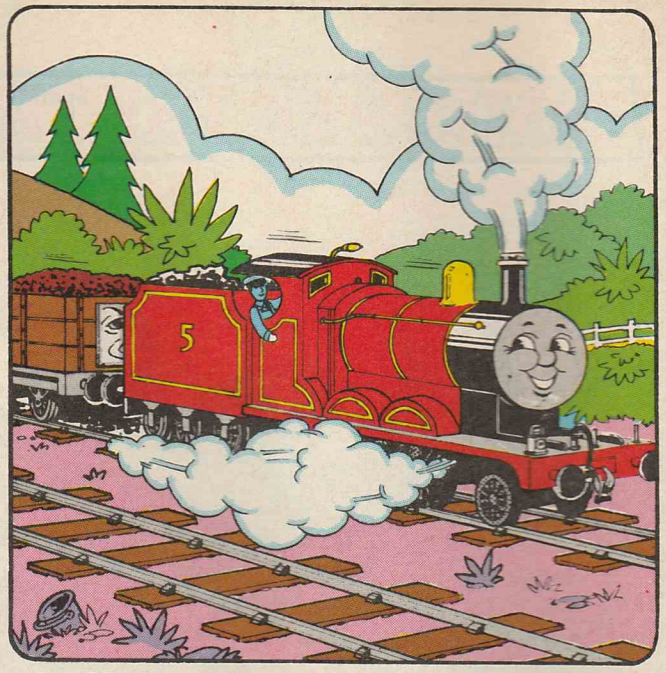


1. James had not seen the Fat Controller for several days. He had been left alone for being naughty and was not even allowed to push trucks and coaches in the yard.

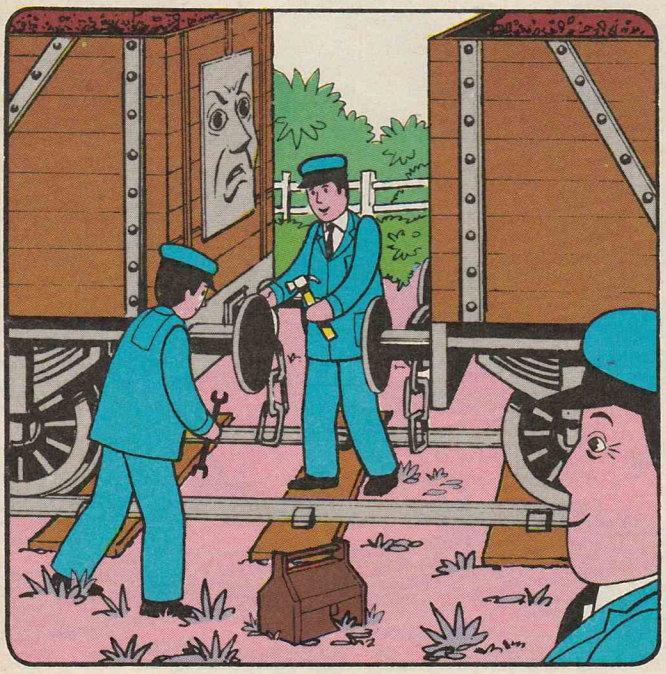
2. "Oh dear," he thought. "I may never leave the shed!" And he began to cry. At last the Fat Controller came to see him. "You have given me a lot of trouble," he said.



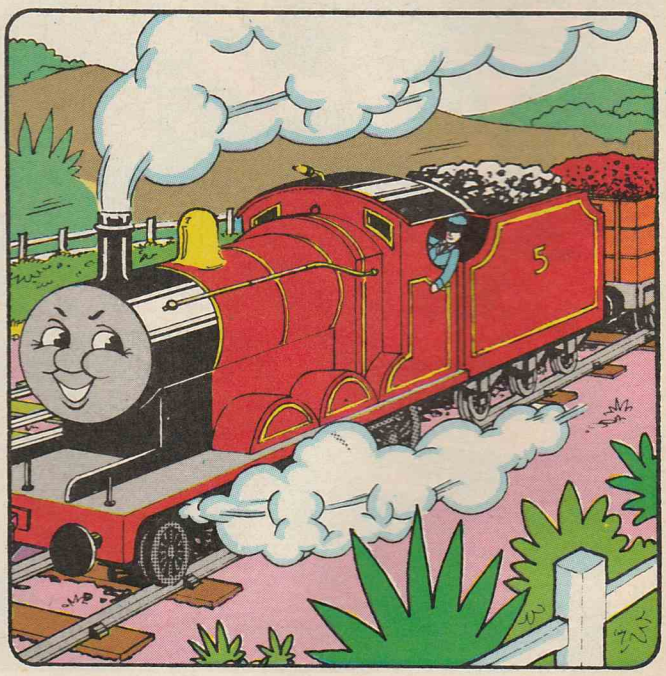
3. "I'm very sorry, sir," said James. "I will try to behave now." "I want you to pull some trucks for me," said the Fat Controller. James was delighted.



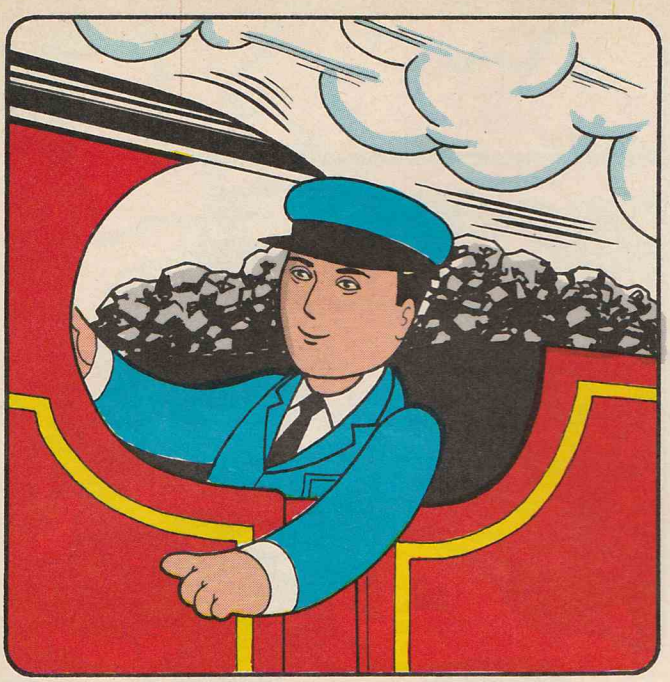
4. He puffed away to collect his trucks. "Oh, oh, oh," said the trucks. "We don't want a red monster." But James took no notice as he pulled them out of the station.



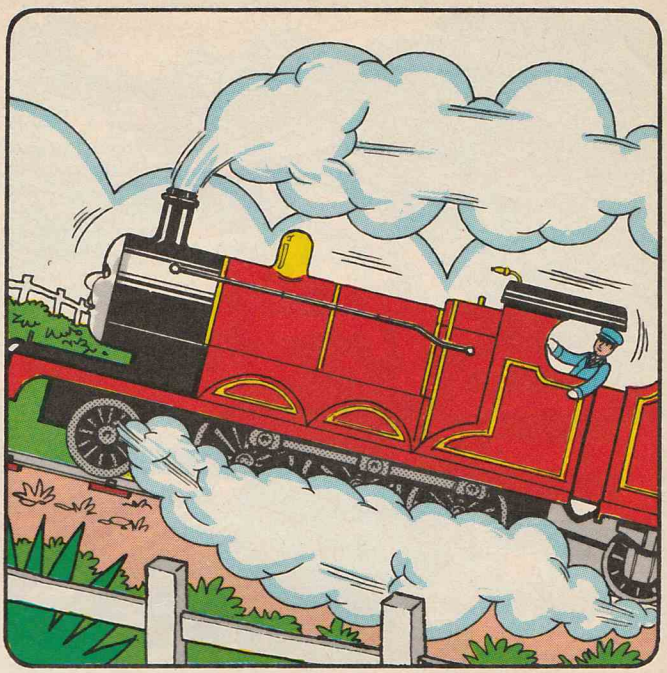
5. The trucks tried hard to make James give up. Sometimes their brakes would slip "on" and sometimes their axles would "run hot". The trouble had to be put right each time.



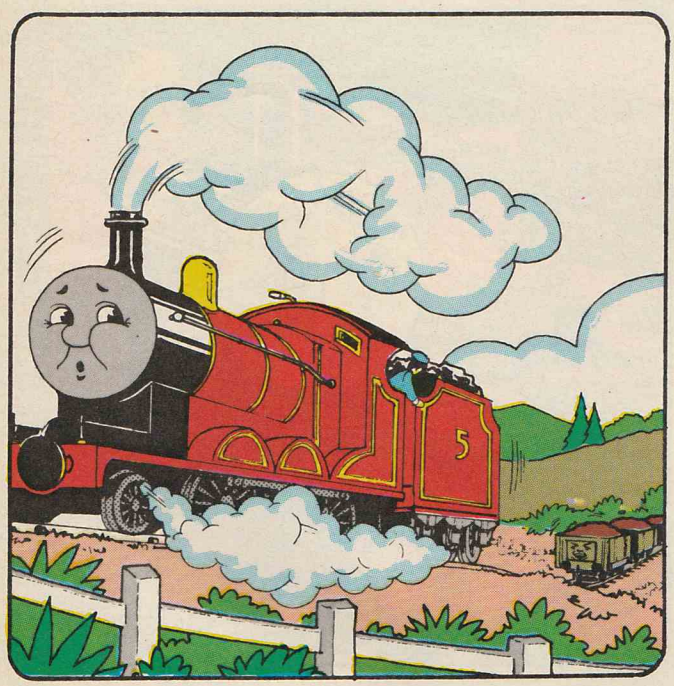
6. "Give up, give up, you can't pull us," called the trucks. "I can and I will. I can and I will," puffed James. Slowly but surely he pulled them along the line.



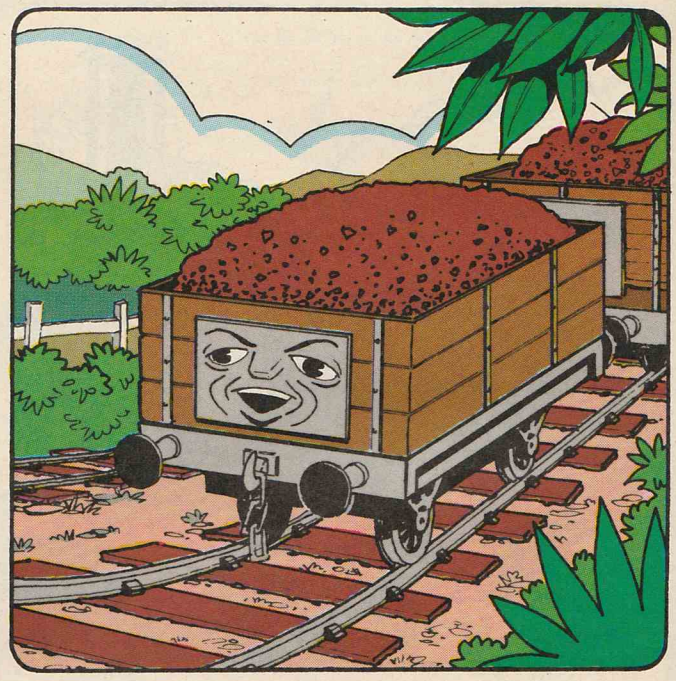
7. They saw Gordon's Hill. "Look out for trouble, James," warned his driver. "We shall go fast and get them up the hill before they know it. You mustn't let them stop you."



8. So James went faster and soon they were half way up the hill. "I'm doing it. I'm doing it," James panted. Then, with a sudden jerk it all became easier. "Hurray!" puffed James.

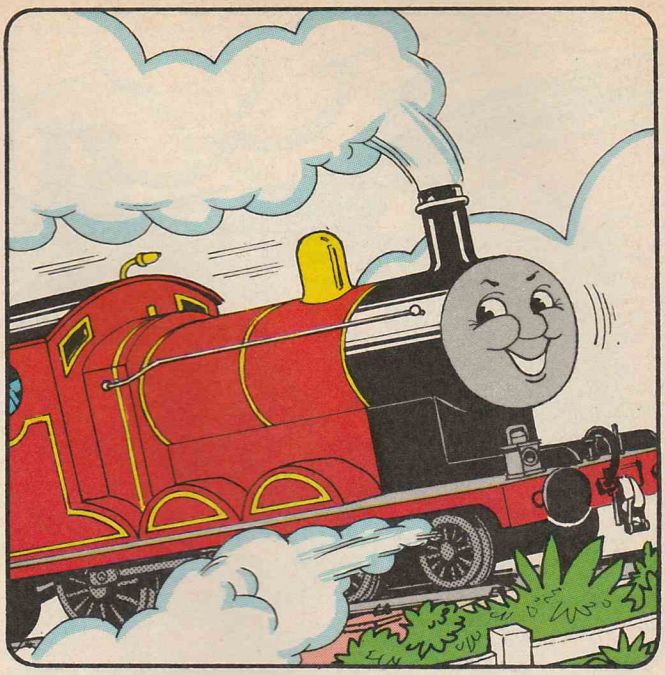


9. But his driver shut off steam. "We've left our tail behind. Look!" he said. The last trucks were running backwards down the hill. The coupling had broken.

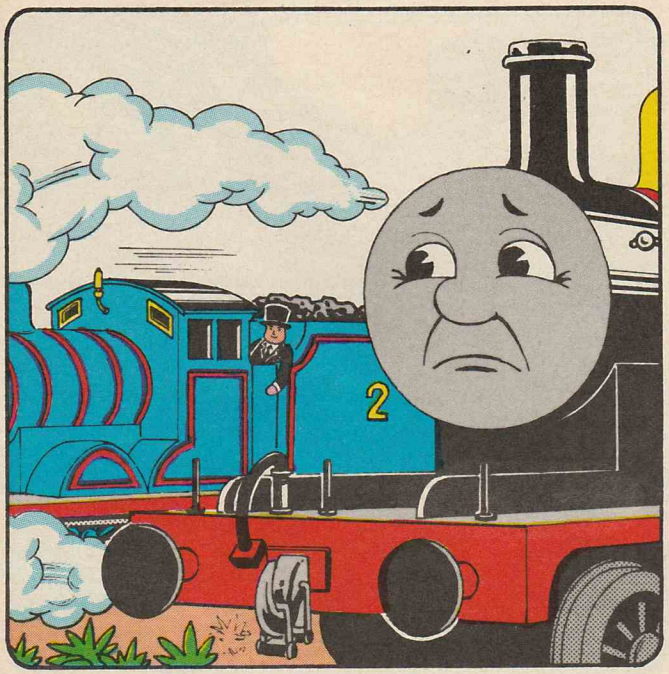


10. The guard stopped the trucks and got out to warn other engines. "That's why it was so easy," said James. "What silly things trucks are." He backed the other trucks down again.

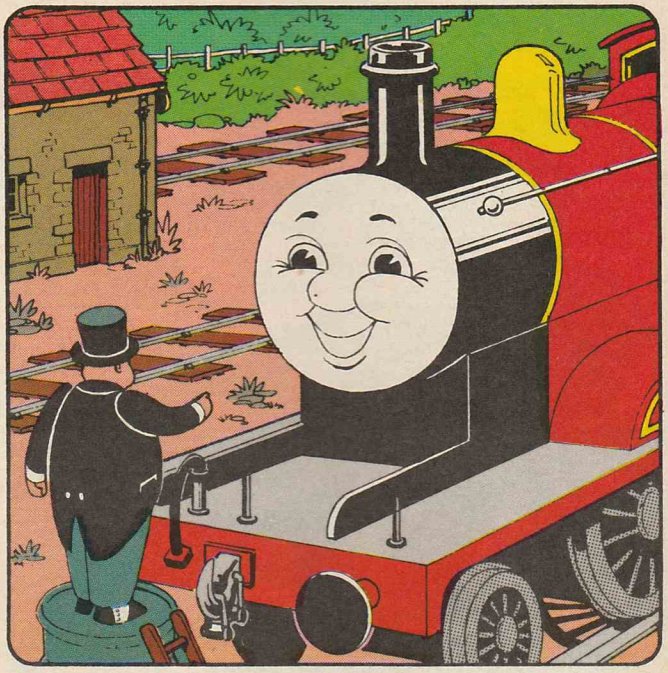
11. Edward called, "Should I help you, James?" James answered, "No thank you. I shall pull them myself." "Good, don't let them beat you," whistled Edward.



12. James slowly struggled up the hill. "I can do it. I can do it," he puffed. He pulled and puffed as hard as he could. "I've done it. I've done it," he cried.



13. They arrived safely at the station. James went to rest in the yard and Edward pulled up. He had the Fat Controller on board. James wondered what he would say.



14. But the Fat Controller was smiling "You've made the most troublesome trucks on the line behave, James. After that you deserve to keep your red coat."

THE END

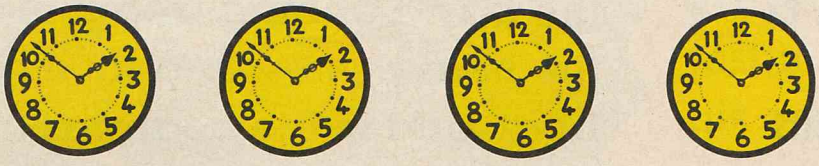
PUZZLE TIME!

Here is a counting game for you! Look at the pictures below. How many trucks are there? How many guards? Write the numbers on the dotted lines.

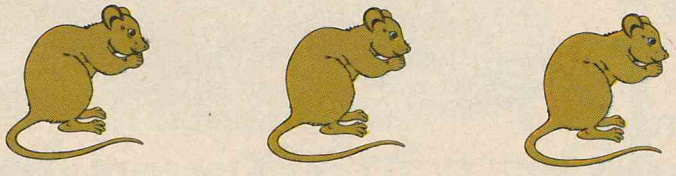
4 guards

3 hats

2 eggs

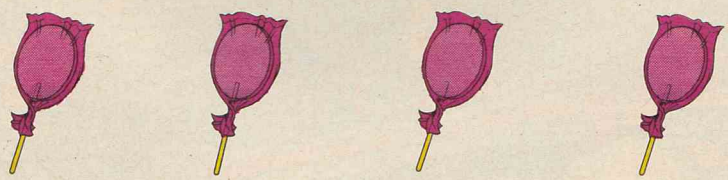


4 clocks



3 mice

2 trucks



4 lollipops

Total = 22

Now add up all the numbers! The answer is below.

Answer 22

A read-aloud story!

Thomas and Harold

It was a bright morning in early Spring on the Island of Sodor. Thomas arrived at the station by the sea at the end of his branch line. All of the passengers climbed out of Annie and Clarabel.

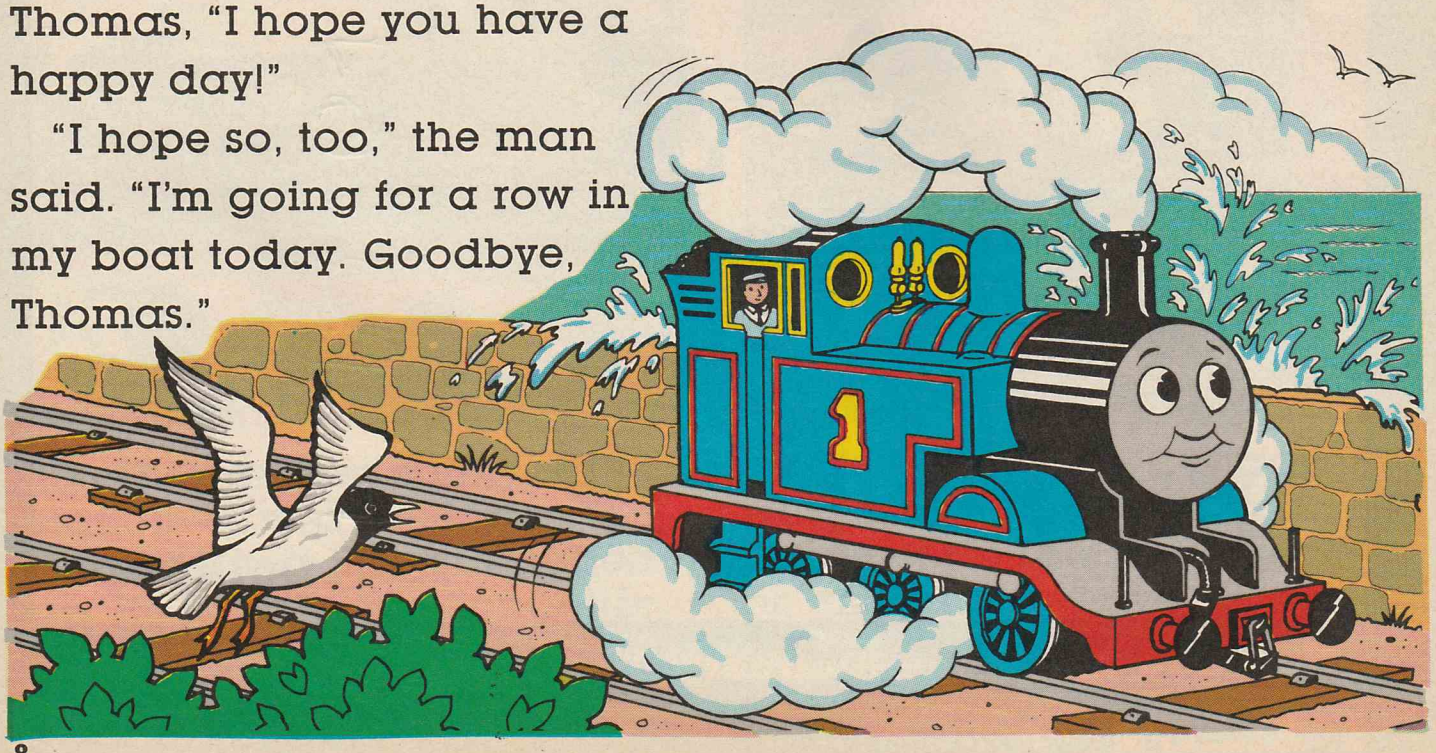
One of the passengers walked along the platform to thank Thomas for such a pleasant ride.

"My pleasure, Sir," said Thomas, "I hope you have a happy day!"

"I hope so, too," the man said. "I'm going for a row in my boat today. Goodbye, Thomas."

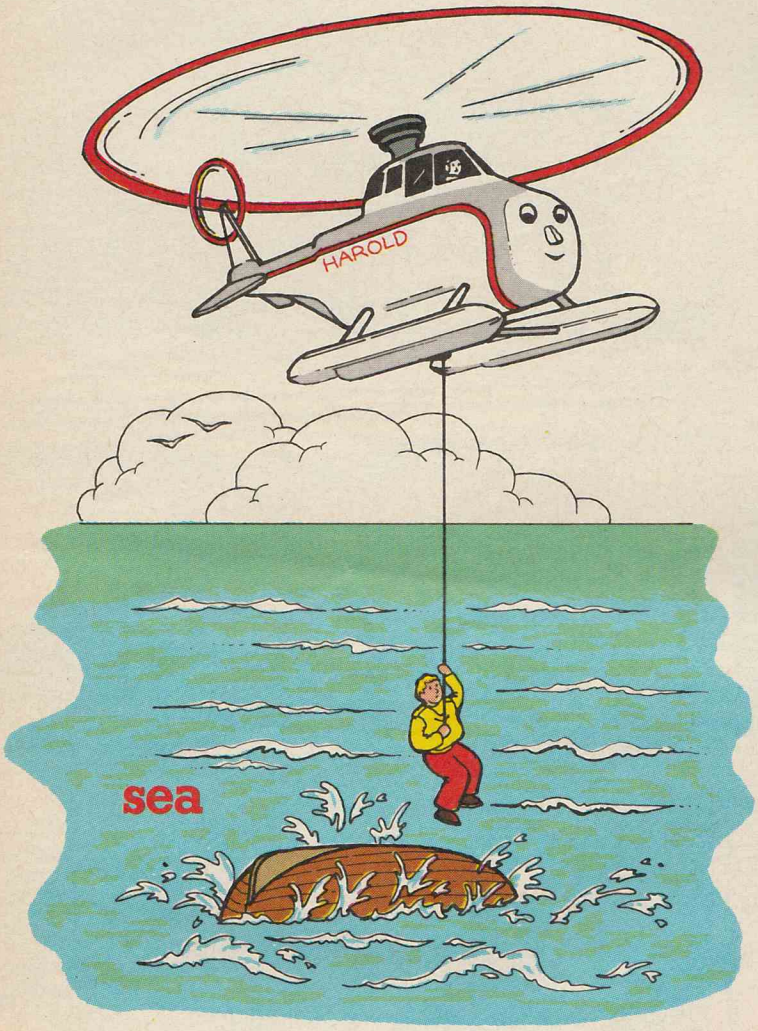
Later in the day the weather changed. The wind blew fiercely across Thomas's branch line and he struggled to reach his station by the sea. "Bother this wind," said Thomas.

As Thomas puffed into the station he looked out across the bay. Bobbing about in the heavy sea was a little boat, and in the boat was the



kind man who had spoken to Thomas that morning.

Suddenly a very large wave hit the boat and the man fell into the rough sea



Thomas whistled and the driver looked out of his window to see what was wrong. A crowd of people came hurrying over to see what the matter was. "What shall we do?" they asked. "If another boat goes to rescue him, that might run into trouble too!"

But Thomas's driver knew what to do. He stoked up the fire in Thomas's fire box and they puffed off along the line as quickly as they could.

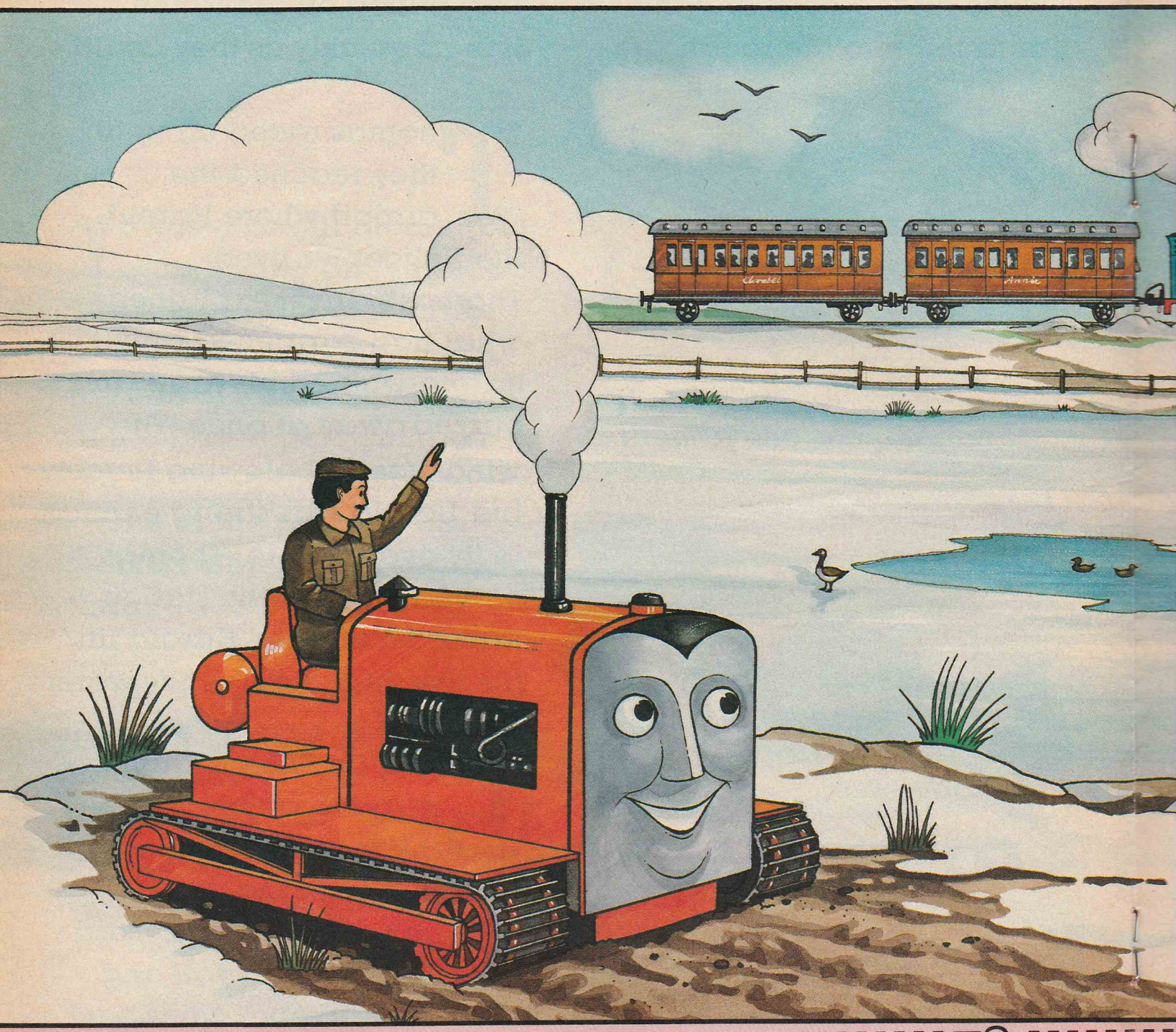
Thomas raced on until they reached the airport where Harold the Helicopter lived. Thomas's driver explained what had happened and Harold whirled his arms and buzzed away at once. The wind was still blowing fiercely but Harold was strong enough to fly over the sea. Thomas arrived back at the station just in time to see Harold lift his new friend out of the water.

Later on Thomas had a surprise visitor. It was the man he had helped to rescue from the sea.

"Thank you, Thomas," said the man. "Without you and your driver's quick-thinking I might have had to swim a very long way! You are a very clever engine!" Thomas felt very proud and whistled with pleasure.

THE END

Past the wi



What colour is Terence the tractor?

How many windows has the windmill?

Is it Summer or Winter?

How can you tell?

How many birds ar

How many birds ar

What is Terence's c

What are Terence's

indmill!

ds are flying?

ds are by the water?

e's driver doing?

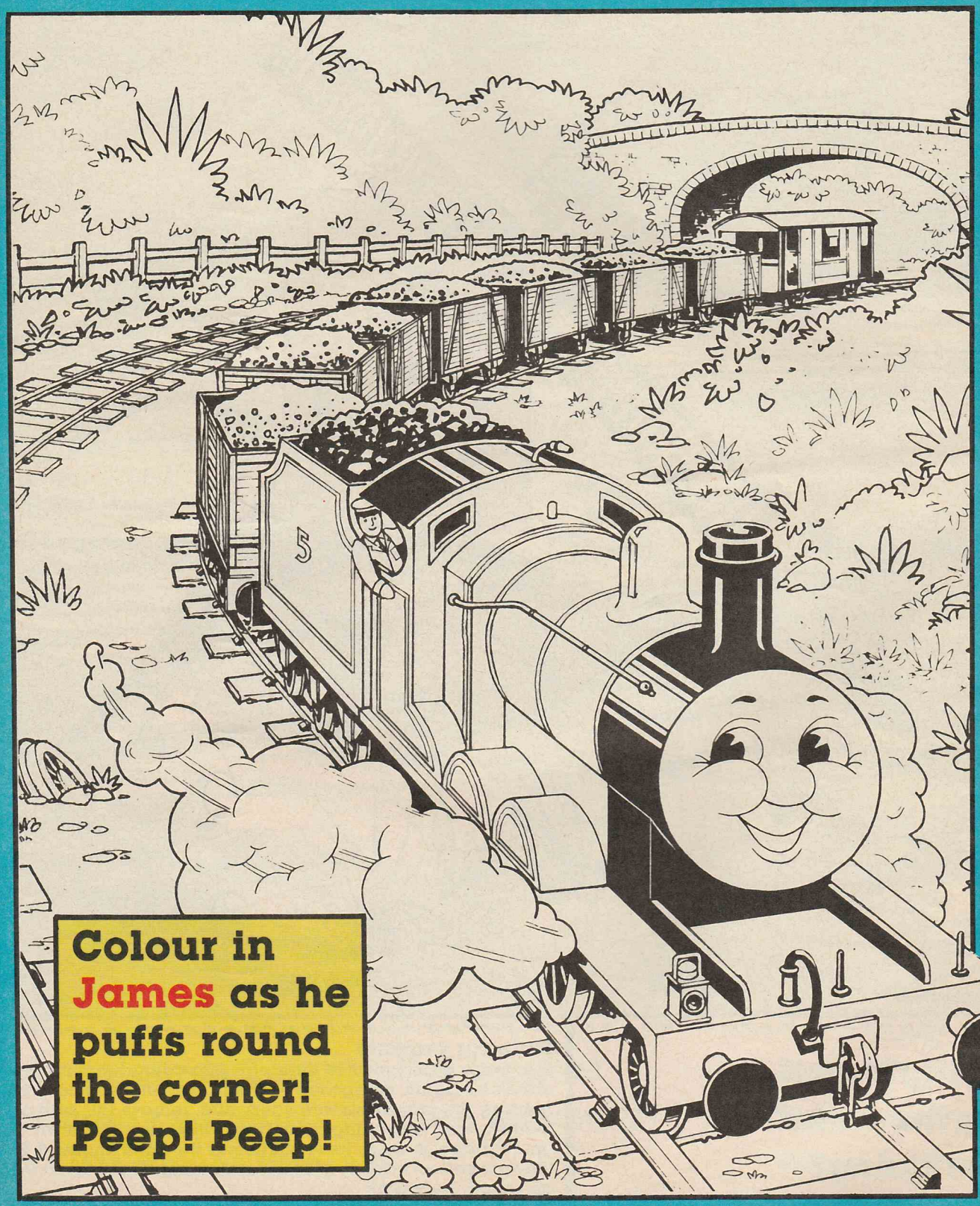
nce's special wheels called?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

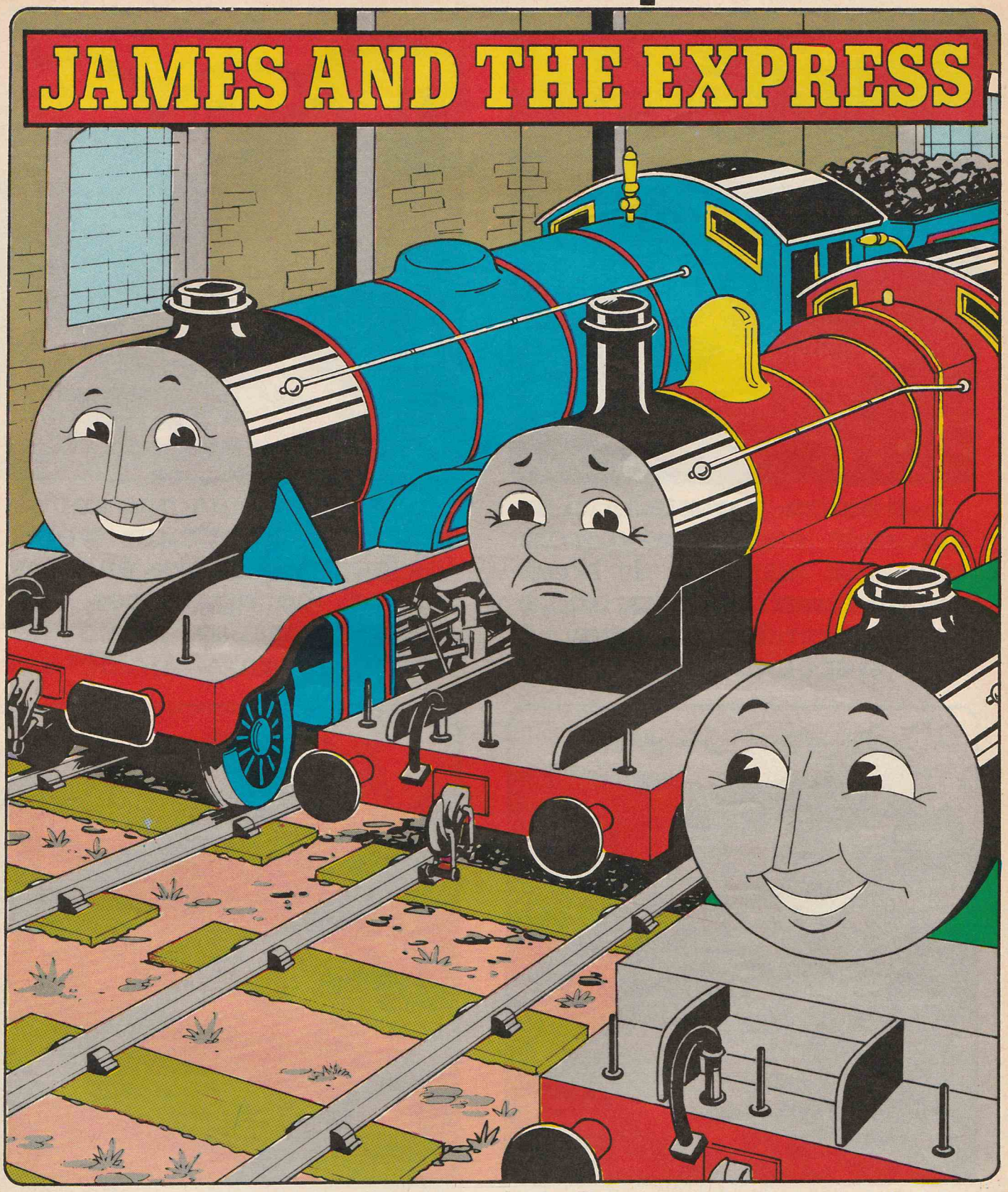
Next: Over the bridge!

COLOURING TIME!



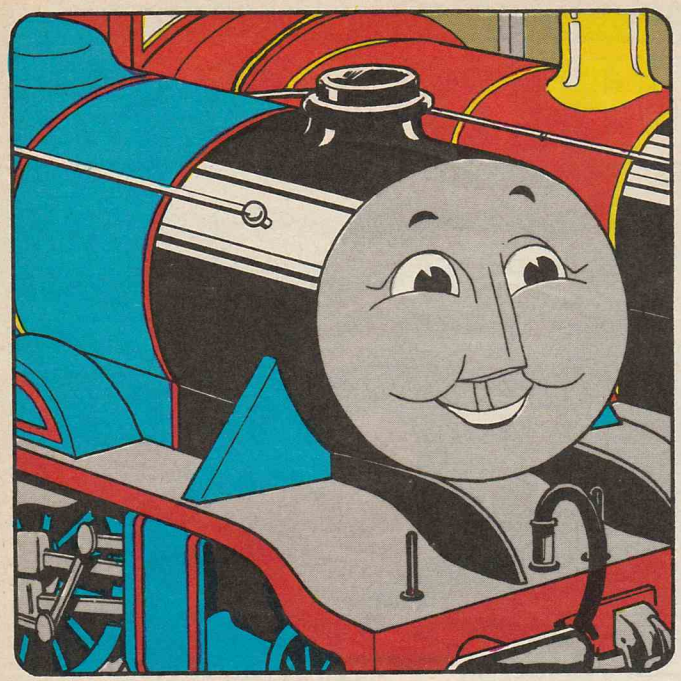
Colour in James as he puffs round the corner! Peep! Peep!

A listen and look story!

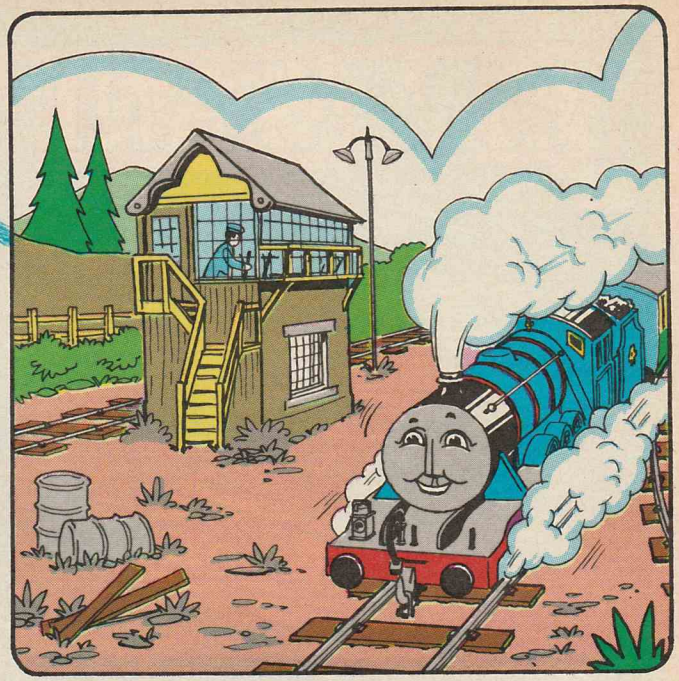


1. One night in the shed Gordon and Henry were alone with James. "Remember the time a bootlace had to be used to get you out of trouble?" they teased.

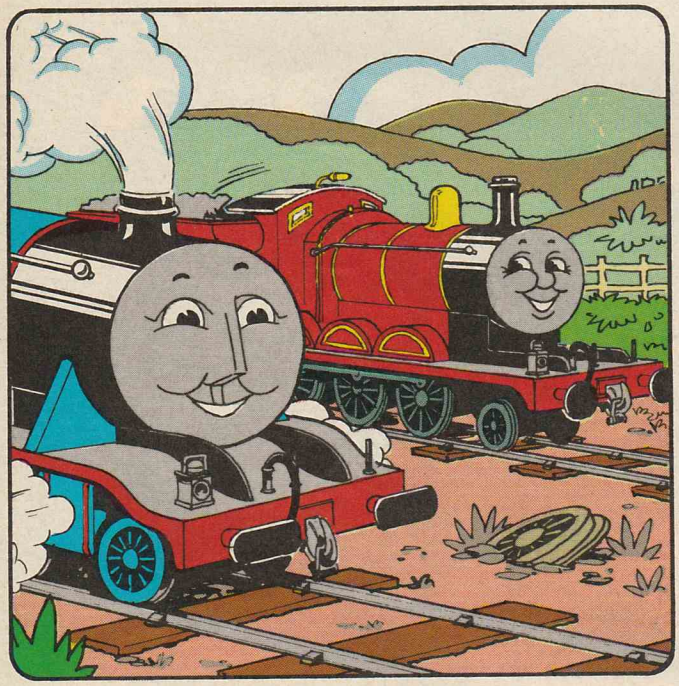
2. James tried to get his own back, but they wouldn't listen. "You talk too much, little James," said Gordon. "A fine strong engine like me has something to say."



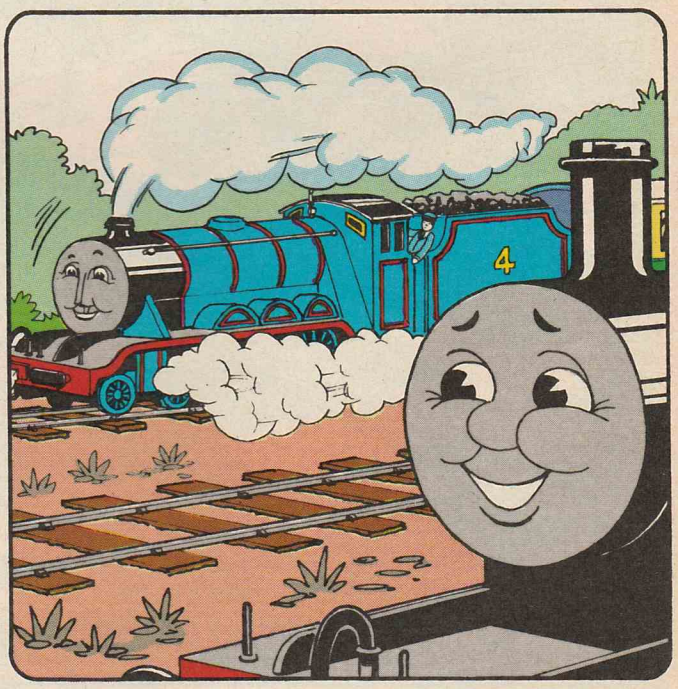
3. Gordon boasted, "I'm the only engine who can pull the express. I have pulled them for years, and I have never lost my way. I have a special instinct."



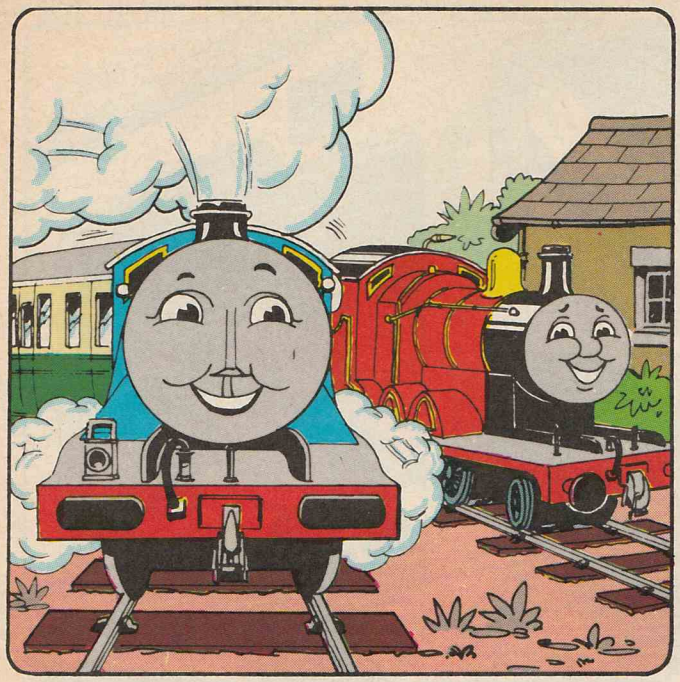
4. Every wise engine knows that the signalman works the points to make engines run on the right lines, but Gordon was so proud he had forgotten.



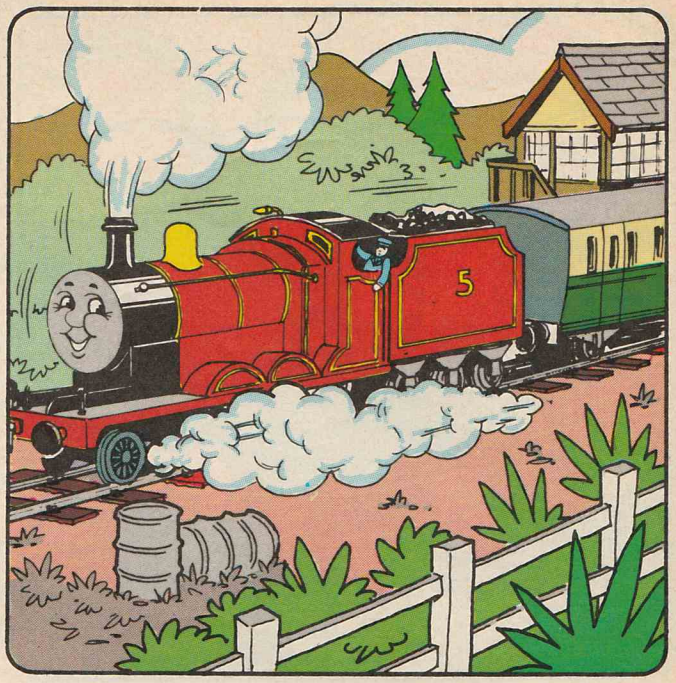
5. "Wake up James," said Gordon the next morning. "It's nearly time for the express." James went to get Gordon's coaches. He was careful not to bump them.



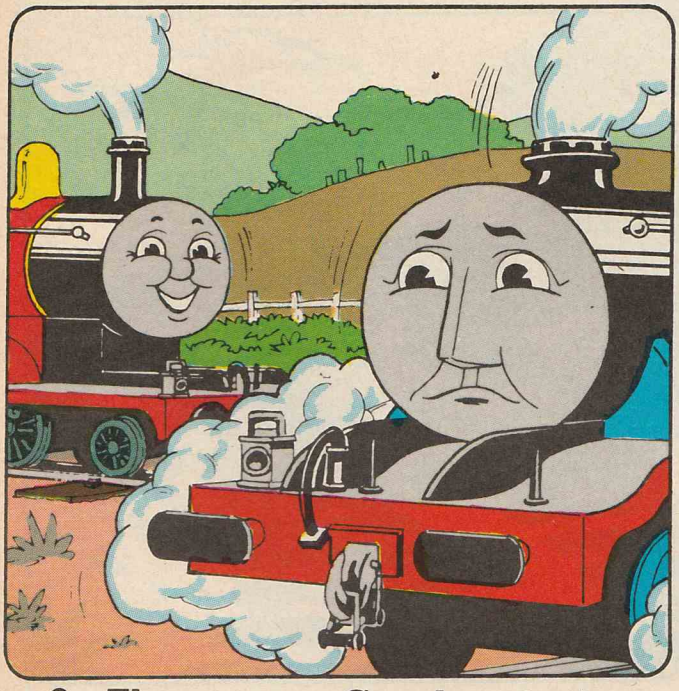
6. Gordon, with much noise and blowing of steam, got ready to couple on to the train. The Fat Controller was on the train with other important people.



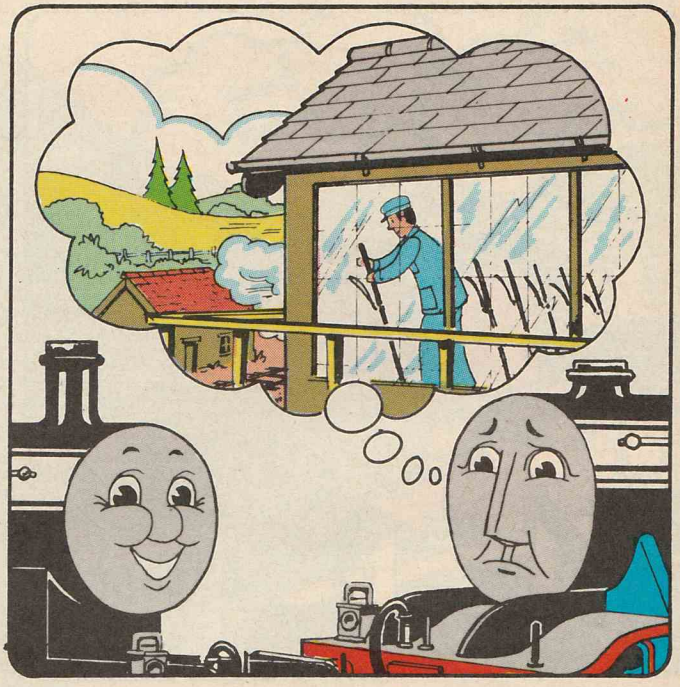
7. Gordon started as soon as he heard the guard blow his whistle. "Look at me now. Look at me now," he puffed. "Good-bye, little James. See you tomorrow."



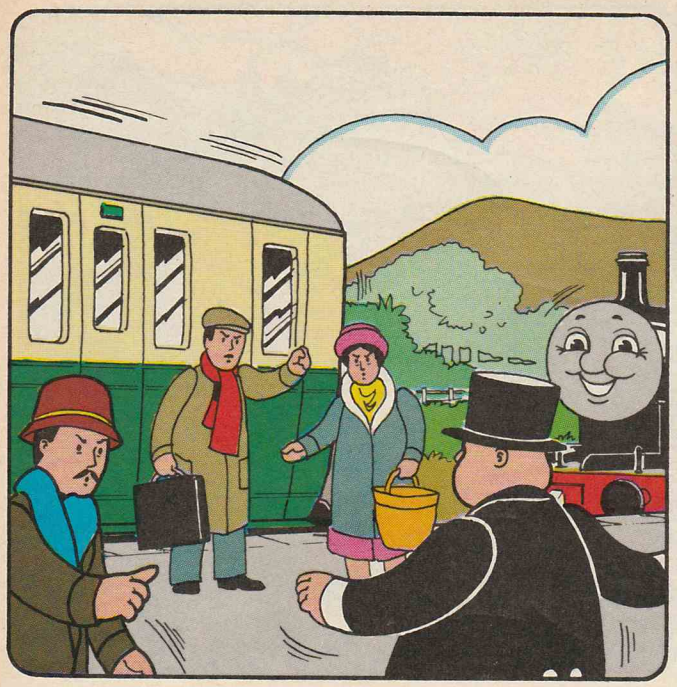
8. James watched the train disappear, and then went back to work. He had just gone to fetch the coaches for another train when he heard a mournful noise.



9. There was Gordon trying to sidle into the station without being noticed. "Is it tomorrow, Gordon?" asked James. Gordon just let off steam feebly.

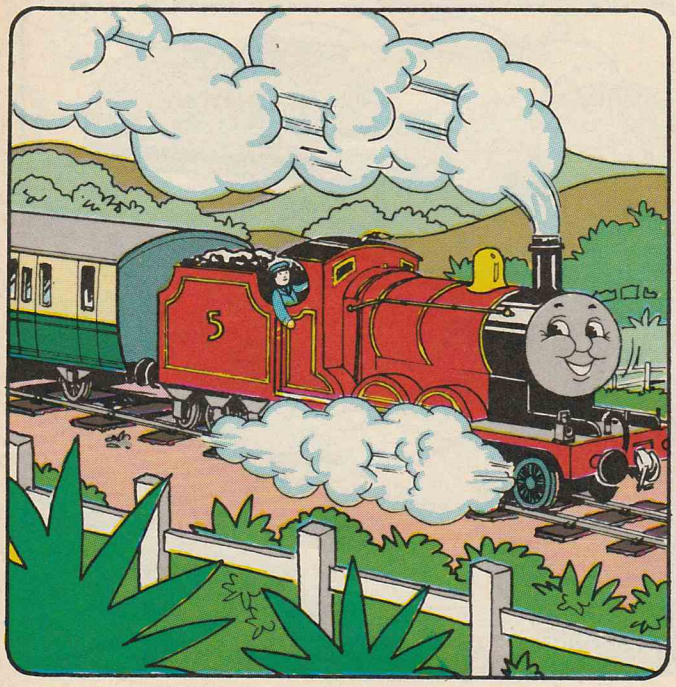


10. James asked, "Did you lose your way?" "No," said Gordon. "It was lost for me. I was switched on to the loop. I had to go all round and back again."

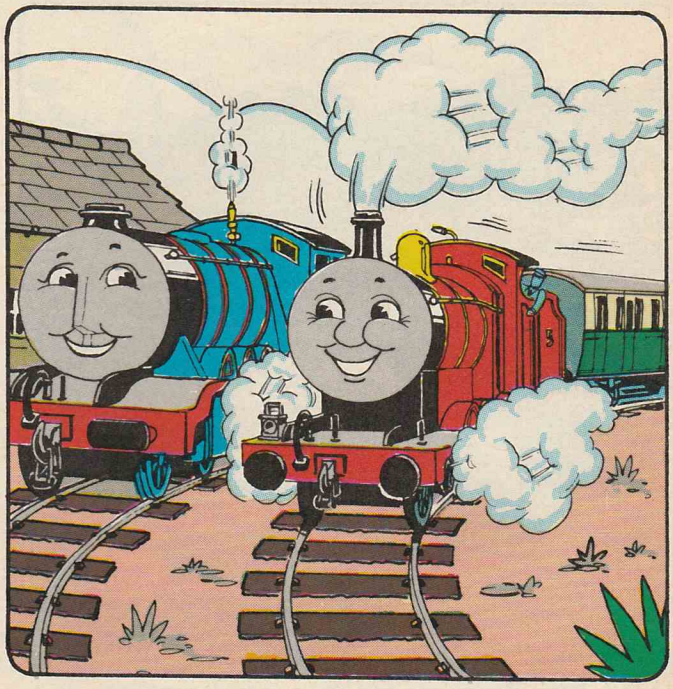


11. The passengers shouted, "We want our money back!" The Fat Controller promised them a new train. "Gordon can't do it. Will you pull it for us, James?" he said.

12. So James was coupled on and everyone got in. "Do your best, James," said the Fat Controller. "Come along, come along," puffed James. "Hurry, hurry, hurry."

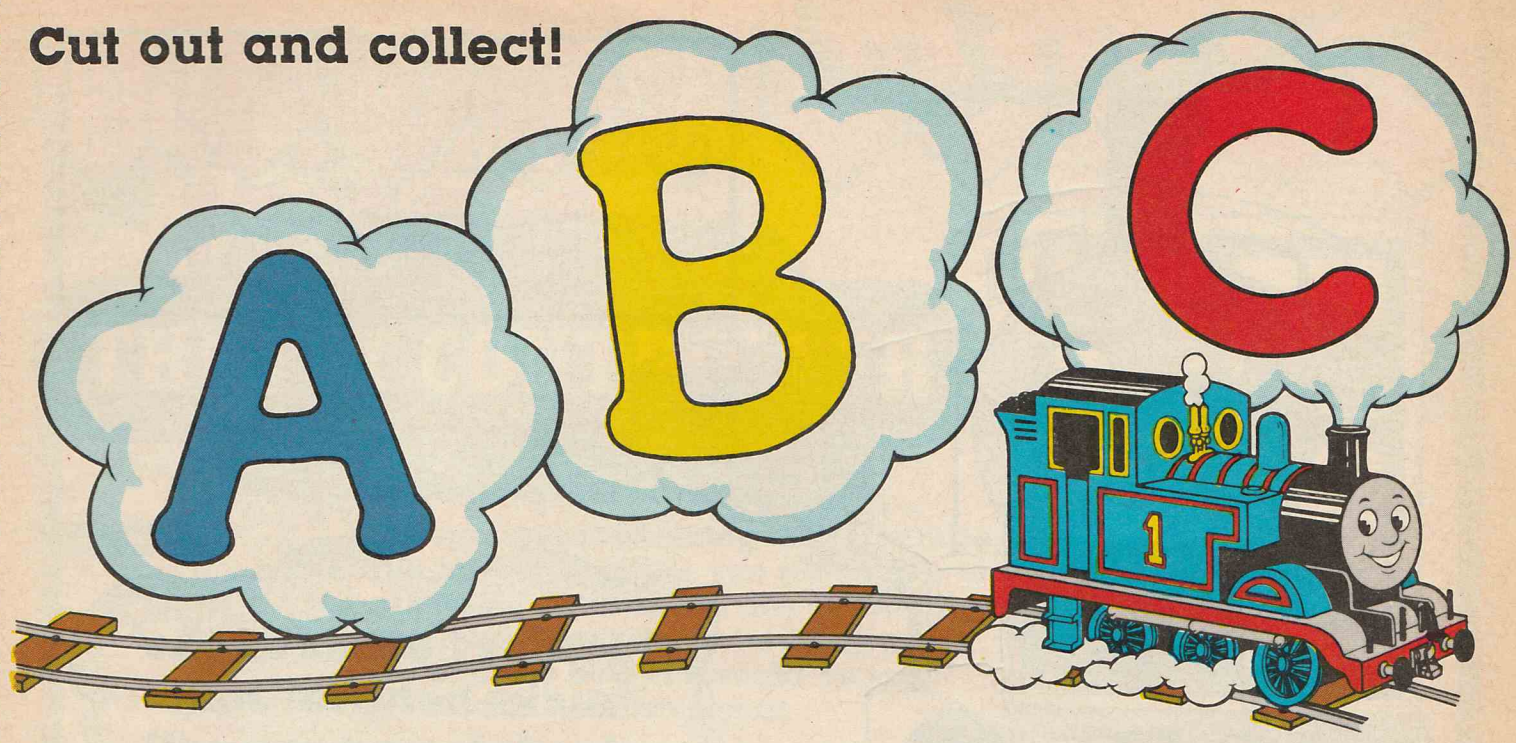


13. Bridges and stations flashed by. The passengers cheered. They soon reached the station. "Well done," said the Fat Controller. He was very impressed.



14. James and Gordon are now good friends. Sometimes James takes the express to give Gordon a rest. Gordon never teases James about bootlaces anymore. **THE END**

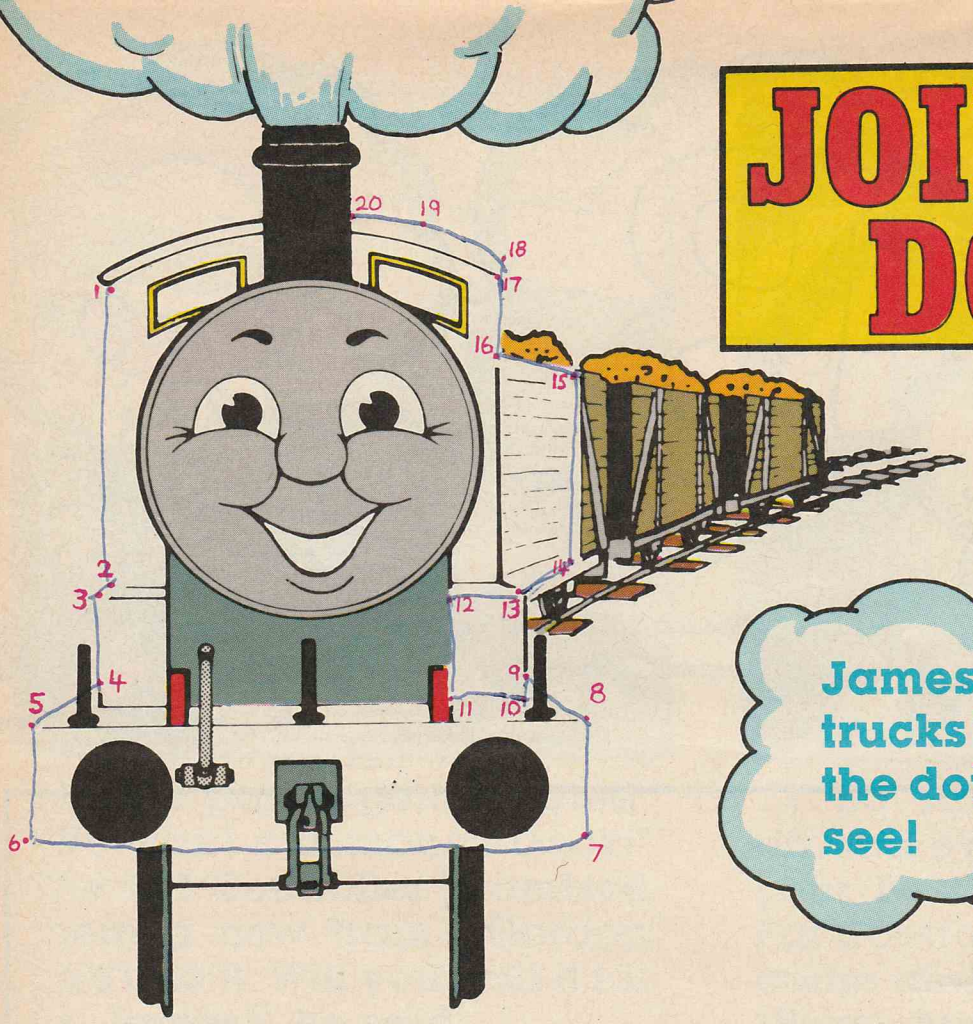
Cut out and collect!



Ff

frog

JOIN THE DOTS!



James has made the trucks behave! Join the dots and you will see!

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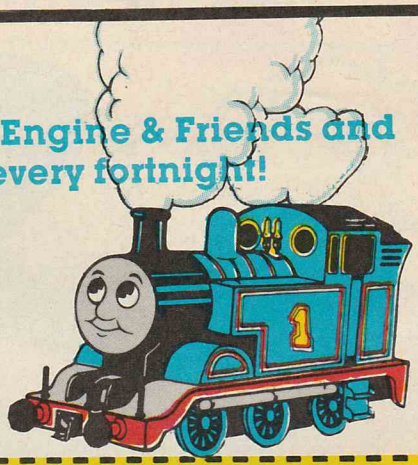
Take out a subscription to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and have every issue sent straight to your home every fortnight!



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.....

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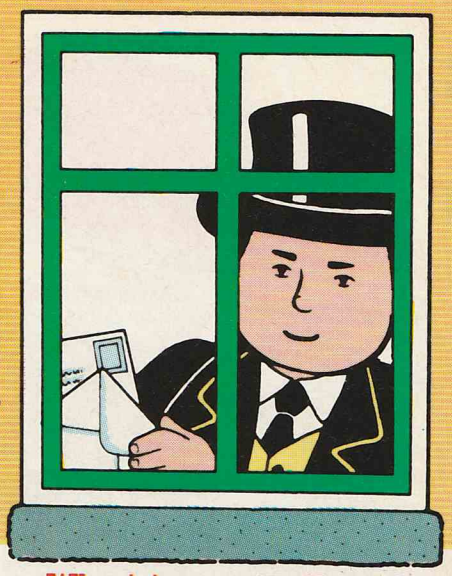
Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER PRIZES!

★★★★★★★★

The sender of the best letter which is printed on this page each fortnight will win a splended **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug,** from *Bluebird*. So please don't forget to include your address if you write!

PLEASE!

Dear Fat Controller,

When I grow up I would like to drive an engine like Thomas or Henry. Please can I work for you?

Love **Gerard** aged 6.

Come and see me when you are a little older, Gerard, and, if you have worked hard at school, we'll see what we can do.

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,

Thomas is my favourite engine because he is small like me.

From **Keith** aged 6.

Thomas is one of my smaller engines – but as you know, Keith, he is a Very Useful engine too.

JAMES'S JAPES!

What is yellow and can go at 100 miles an hour?

A jet propelled banana!

Scott aged 4.

What is the difference between a kangaroo and a biscuit?

You can't dip a kangaroo into a cup of tea!

Lee aged 4.

What is a meatball?

A dance in a butcher's shop!

Robert Denton.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthday wishes go to: **Samantha Jones, Nicola Ingram, William Bruce, Craig and Natasha Bowdrey, Richard Kerton, Louis Rudkin, Lee Latham, Christopher Elkins, Alistair Barugh, Glenn Andrews, Karen** and **Deborah Styles** and **Christopher Donaldson!**

If you'd like us to mention your birthday, please tell us about it at least 8 weeks beforehand!

Yours,

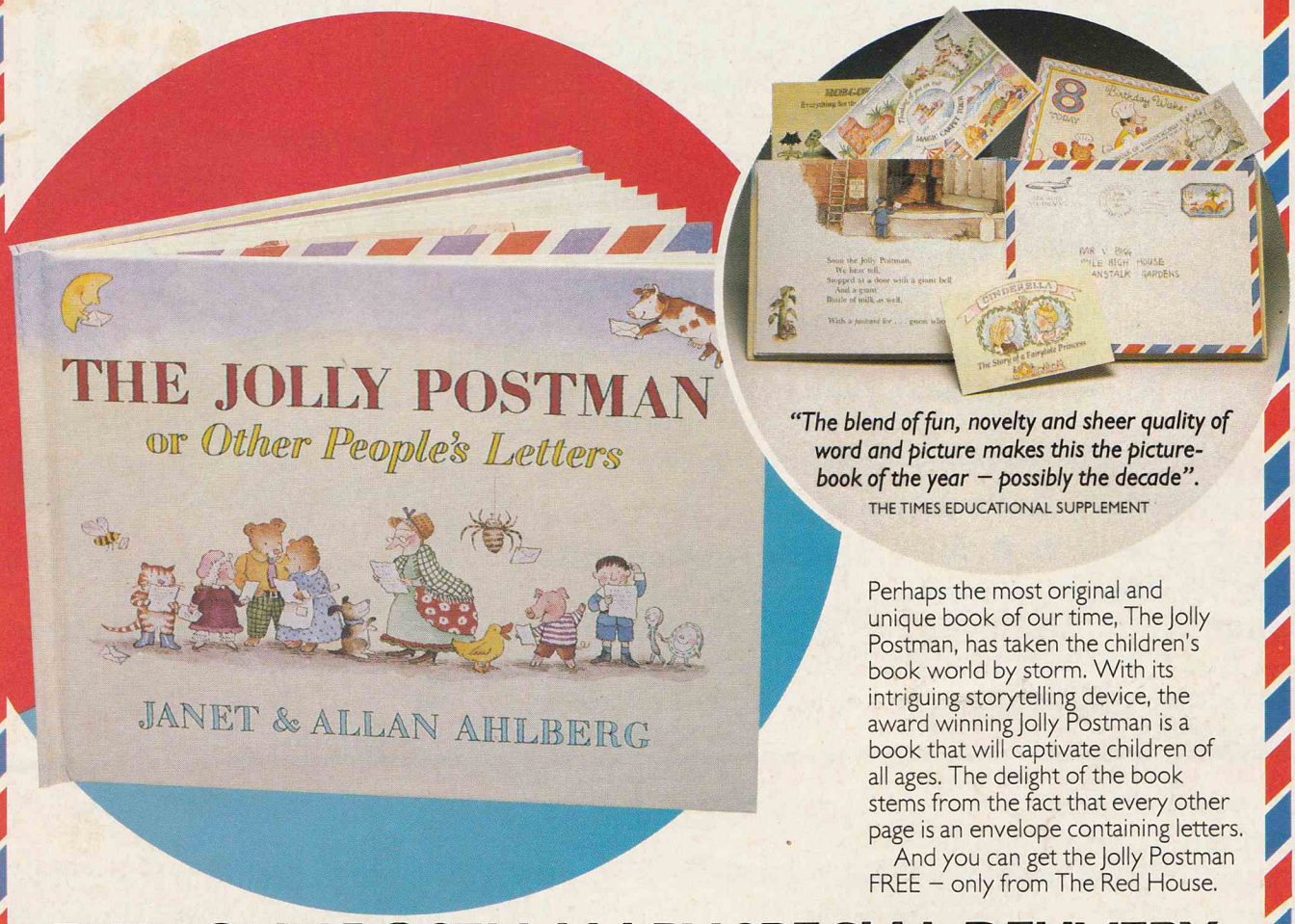
Sir Topham Hatt.

The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

'THE BOOK OF THE DECADE' –COMES FREE WHEN YOUR FAMILY JOINS THE RED HOUSE



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THE RED HOUSE
CHILDRENS BOOK CLUB

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Please send us our free copy of The Jolly Postman and enrol my family in The Red House. I agree to purchase a minimum of 3 books during our first year's membership.

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

Children's names and dates of birth.

TOM-28-11-87

THE RED HOUSE, WITNEY, OXFORD OX8 6YQ.
TELEPHONE: (0993) 71144/74171.